

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 011611

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DRAFTED BY EA/VN:OA0ARTLEY:JCM

APPROVED BY EA:MSTEARNS

EA/VN:RHWENZEL

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P 181916Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 011611

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, VS

SUBJ: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM STEARNS

CONFIRMING OUR TELECON YESTERDAY, BOB RICHMOND, EA/VN ECONOMIC OFFICER WILL ARRIVE SAIGON JANUARY 21 FOR ONE WEEK'S CONSULTATION. WE HAVE BEGUN INTER-AGENCY REVIEW OF THE PROBLEM OF THE SHORTFALL IN FY 74 ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR INDOCHINA, AND WE WOULD LIKE RICHMOND TO DISCUSS WITH APPROPRIATE MISSION OFFICERS DEVELOPMENT OF ESSENTIAL SUPPLEMENTARY DATA PRIOR TO FORMULATING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SECRETARY. WHAT WE WANT RICHMOND TO DEVELOP WITH YOU ARE DATA THAT WILL DEMONSTRATE THAT ADDITIONAL INFUSIONS OF AID IN CURRENT FY WILL (A) REVERSE OR AT LEAST HALT DECLINE IN GNP (B) SLOW DOWN RATE OF INFLATION (C) INCREASE EMPLOYMENT AND (D) CONTRIBUTE TO EVENTUAL REDUCTION IN LEVEL OF IMPORTS. IN SHORT, WE NEED AS MUCH DATA AS POSSIBLE TO COUNTER THESIS THAT ADDITIONAL AID WILL SIMPLY BE USED TO MAINTAIN ARTIFICALLY HIGH LEVEL OF IMPORTS WITHOUT IMPROVING BASIC HEALTH OF ECONOMY. RUSH

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